

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 COME-00 INT-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5976

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - FUEL SHORTAGE THREAT TO PANAM SERVICES

1. SUMMARY. PANAM'S VP /ITED KINGDOM (MOORE) INFORMED US NOVEMBER 30 THAT ITS /UK FUEL SUPPLIER (ESSO) HAD JUST ADVISED CARRIER THAT IT MAY EXHAUST ITS UK FUEL ALLOCATION AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 3. CARRIER AND ITS SUPPLIER PLAN TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TODAY TO SEEK RELIEF FROM FUEL CRISIS. WE HAVE ASKED DTI FOR PROMPT ACTION ON PANAM REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. PANAM STATES THAT LAST WEEK ESSO, ITS PRIMARY SUPPLIER, AND HYDRANT FUELING SERVICE, A SECONDARY SUPPLIER, INFORMED CARRIER ITS SUPPLIES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO 10 PER CENT CUT-BACK WHICH APPLIES TO ALL UK FUEL USERS (LONDON 13545). AT SAME TIME SUPPLIERS INDICATED INITIAL ALLOCATION PERIOD WOULD BE NOVEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 31 AND REDUCTION CALCULATION WOULD BE FROM SAME PERIOD YEAR EARLIER. THIS WEEK, ESSO TOLD

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CARRIER THAT IN ORDER ASSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OVER

HOLIDAY PERIOD, GOVERNMENT HAD ORDERED THAT CARRIERS COULD NOT EXCEED 50 PER CENT OF ALLOCATIONS FOR INITIAL PERIOD BEFORE DECEMBER 12. PANAM CALCULATED THAT IT WOULD REACH 50 PER CENT RESTRAINT BY DECEMBER 6 SO IMMEDIATELY ASKED SUPPLIER TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM DTI TO TAP TWA FUEL ALLOCATION WHICH NOT BEING USED BECAUSE OF TWA STRIKE. ESSO MADE APPLICATION TO DTI BUT THUS FAR HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. IN MEANTIME, ESSO ADVISED CARRIER 50 PER CENT RESTRAINT MIGHT BE REACHED AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 3.

3. PANAM'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO FUEL REDUCTION HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY TWA STRIKE. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (LONDON 13637), PANAM, TWA AND BRITISH AIRWAYS HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON CAPACITY REDUCTIONS TO MEET FUEL PROBLEM BUT NONE OF THESE REDUCTIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL TWA STRIKE ENDS. IN PART BECAUSE OF TWA STRIKE, PANAM LOAD FACTOR HAVE BEEN HIGH ON NORTH ATLANTIC AND CARRIER DOES NOT BELIEVE IT CAN CUT SCHEDULES AND STILL MEET PUBLIC NEED FOR SERVICE.

4. WE HAVE DISCUSSED PANAM PROBLEM WITH ROGERS AND BROWN (DTI) AND ASKED FOR PROMPT ACTION TO ALLEVIATE IT. BOTH SHOWED CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR PANAM'S PLIGHT AND ROGERS SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO EASE PROBLEM. HE SAID HE THOUGHT UKG WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE AN ADJUSTMENT BUT THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM IN FINDING A WAY WITHIN TERMS OF EMERGENCY POWERS FUEL DIRECTIVE AND IN TIME TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF SERVICE. BROWN INDICATED BRITISH AIRWAYS IS IN SIMILAR SITUATION BUT ITS FUEL CRUNCH MAY NOT COME QUITE AS EARLY AS PANAM'S. ACCORDING TO BROWN, BA IS ALSO SEEKING ACCESS TO TWA'S UNUSED ALLOCATION.

5. PANAM'S MOORE AND ESSO REP ARE CALLING ON DTI'S OIL EMERGENCY DIVISION TODAY TO SEEK RELIEF FROM PROBLEM. PANAM WILL KEEP US INFORMED.

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## Message Attributes

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